

**2005**

**Boise Fire Weather**

**Operating Plan**

# BOISE NWS FIRE WEATHER ANNUAL OPERATING PLAN - 2005

## **NEW FOR THE 2005 SEASON**

Morning issuance time of the daily fire weather planning forecasts (FWF) will be 0730. Previously it was 0900.

Smoke dispersal parameters in the form of mixing heights and transport winds will continue to be included in the FWF for Idaho fire weather zones, but not SE Oregon.

8-14 Day Outlook will not be included with the morning issuance of the FWF. It will continue to be posted on the afternoon FWF at 1530 MDT.

Idaho Zone groupings have undergone significant configuration and name changes. See section 'A' below for descriptions and maps.

Please reference LAT/LON when requesting spot forecasts rather than T/R/S.

## **LOCATION**

NIFC/National Weather Service Forecast Office  
3833 S. Development Ave, Bldg 3807  
Boise, ID 83705

## **HOURS OF OPERATION**

Depending on variables such as fuel parameters and customer need, seasonal fire weather hours of operation will be: 0830-1630 MDT.

4/11 through 5/16: One planning forecast will be issued at 1530 MDT.

5/16 through 10/29: Two planning forecasts will be issued at 0730 and 1530 MDT.

Staff meteorologists will be on duty and available at **any time**.

## **STAFF AND CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Fire Weather Telephone Number (208) 334-9060  
Fax Number (208) 334-1662 or (208) 334-1660  
Internet Access: <http://www.boi.noaa.gov/fw.x.htm>

## **FIRE WEATHER SERVICES**

### **A. Description of the Boise Fire Weather District:**

West Central Idaho Mountains...

- Zone 400 – Northern Boise BLM
- Zone 401 - West portion of the Payette NF and Southern Idaho Timber Protection Agency (SITPA)
- Zone 402 - East portion of the Payette NF
- Zone 403 - North portion of the Boise NF
- Zone 404 - South portion of the Boise NF

Southwest Idaho

- Zone 408 – Treasure Valley
- Zone 418 – Western Twin Falls district of the Shoshone BLM
- Zone 419 – Owyhee Mountains

Southeast Oregon...

- Zone 636 - Portion of the Burns BLM that lies south of Highway 20.
- Zone 637 - Vale BLM (including Malheur County and the far SE corner of Baker County).

See the appendix for a map delineating the area and zone configuration.

### **B. Basic Meteorological Services**

INTERNET BRIEFING: A daily internet briefing will be offered for all agencies at 0930 MDT, seven days a week once the fire season is underway with sufficient interest. Otherwise it will be offered on Mondays and Thursdays. This briefing will include a general discussion of weather conditions and forecasts for the current day, as well a brief discussion of the extended period. Model data, satellite loops, and other items of interest will be addressed for the forecast period. During the briefing, the appropriate maps will be available via the internet and the Boise Fire Weather website. The briefing will usually last less than 15 minutes, but may be longer as significant fire activity necessitates.

SPOT FORECASTS: <http://www.boi.noaa.gov/fw.x.htm>

Please reference LAT/LON when requesting spot forecasts.

Follow-up phone calls are always encouraged and feedback is extremely useful.

PLANNING FORECASTS: Smoke dispersal parameters in the form of mixing heights and transport winds will continue to be included in the daily fire weather planning forecasts for Idaho, but not SE Oregon. The mixing height is defined as the height above the ground (AGL) through which relatively vigorous mixing will take place due to convection. The transport wind is defined as the average wind speed and direction within the mixing layer.

## C. SCHEDULE OF PRODUCTS

<u>Product:</u>	<u>Issuance time: (MDT)</u>
Morning planning forecast	0730
Internet briefing	0930
Afternoon planning forecast	1530
NFDRS point forecast -	1545
NFDRS point forecast - Burns BLM	1630
Fire Weather Watch / Red Flag Warnings	Event-Driven
Spot forecasts	Upon request

## D. RED FLAG EVENTS

High to extreme fire danger and dry fuels as defined by the BLM or Forest Service must exist in combination with the following weather conditions:

- “Dry” thunderstorm activity: “Dry” means that thunderstorms will produce less than a tenth (.10”) of an inch of rainfall but a considerable amount of lightning. Areal coverage must be at least Widely Scattered ( $\geq 15\%$ ). Isolated lightning is not enough to warrant a Red Flag Warning.
- The occurrence of lightning after an extremely dry period. Often this means that the thunderstorms will “initially” be dry.
- High Haines index of 6 in conjunction with extremely dry fuels as indicated by land management agencies such as Eastern Great Basin GACC fuels map or Pacific Northwest GACC dryness level forecasts.
- Strong winds and low humidities:  
IDAHO: Wind gusts  $\geq 30$  mph for 3 hours or more; and relative humidity  $\leq 15\%$ ...EXCEPT  $\geq 25$  mph and RH  $\leq 15\%$  in the Boise and Payette NFs.

OREGON: Sustained (10-minute average) winds  $\geq 20$  mph and/or wind gusts  $\geq 35$  mph for 3 hours or more; and relative humidity  $\leq 10\%$ . Red Flag

Criteria are considered to be met if conditions are met at any 3 RAWS stations within a combined area of Fire Weather Zone 636 and 637. Alternatively, if a RFW is issued separately for Fire Weather Zones 636 and 637, it is considered to verify if conditions are met at 3 RAWS stations in Zone 636 or 2 RAWS stations in Zone 637.

## RED FLAG EVENTS Continued

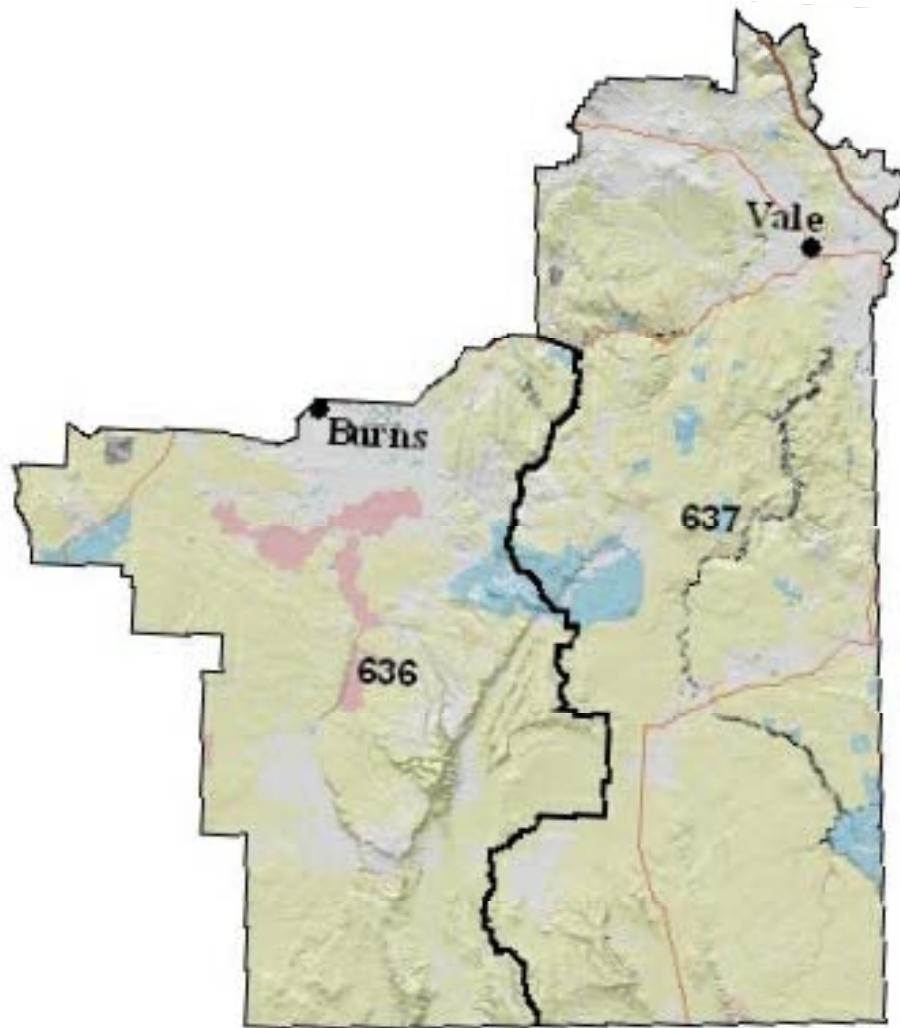
### Wind vs. Relative humidity for Burns BLM (636) and Vale BLM (637)

#### SUSTAINED 20 FT WIND (10-MINUTE AVERAGE in MPH)

	10 mph	15 mph	20 mph	25 mph	30 mph
25%					
20%					W
15%				W	W
10%			W	W	W

Interagency Coordination: Before the issuance of a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning, there will be coordination with the affected agencies and neighboring NWS fire weather offices in order to assess fuel conditions and general fire danger.

Dissemination of Fire Weather Watches and Red Flag Warnings: Each issuance, update or cancellation of a Fire Weather Watch or Red Flag Warning will be relayed by telephone to the dispatch office(s) affected by the watch/warning.



## 2005 NFDRS Station Index

ZONE	NAME	Type	NUMBER	OWNER	LAT	LON	ELEV
636	Moon Hill	R	353526	BLM	42.86	-118.68	6100
636	Bald Mountain	R	353522	BLM	43.56	-118.40	5480
636	PHill	R	353521	BLM	42.83	-118.94	4880
636	Foster Flat	R	353525	BLM	42.97	-119.25	4999
636	Basque Hills	R	353520	BLM	42.26	-118.98	4990
636	Riddle Mountain	R	353511	BLM	43.10	-118.50	6281
636	Wagontire	R	353512	BLM	43.34	-119.88	6510
636	Sage Hen	R	353517	BLM	43.52	-119.29	4400
636	Little McCoy Creek	R	353527	BLM	42.71	-118.51	5080
637	Kelsey Butte	R	353613	BLM	43.92	-117.97	5200
637	Owyhee Ridge	R	353614	BLM	43.52	-117.24	4400
637	Red Butte	R	353616	BLM	43.53	-117.80	4460
637	Grassy Mound	R	353612	BLM	42.63	-117.42	4500